

ALTERNATIVE 1: CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THE PARKS

Muir Woods National Monument

Overall Vision

Muir Woods National Monument attracts a diversity of visitors with many opportunities to enjoy and explore nature through a national park experience. The NPS would seek to provide a welcoming experience for people to be immersed in the natural setting of the redwood forest and the larger Redwood Creek Watershed. A high level of visitor support would be provided including facilities that support a variety of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation, education and stewardship opportunities. The NPS would work cooperatively to strengthen the national monument’s connection to surrounding areas within the Redwood Creek watershed with the goal of providing a variety of interconnected visitor experiences. This includes strengthening links to the surrounding trail system.



Summary of Management Zones

Natural Zone – Visitors are provided with a backcountry type of experience that provides for challenge and self-discovery.

Scenic Corridor Zone – Visitors are provided a “national park” experience within the primeval redwood forest setting. This zone provides a sense of immersion in nature (sight, sound, smell and big trees/creek). Understanding the monument’s role in conservation history is also important. Quiet is encouraged. Universal access would be provided.

Diverse Visitor Opportunities Zone – Visitors are provided a diverse range of recreational, educational, and interpretive opportunities while ensuring the integrity of the national monument’s sensitive resources. Hillwood Camp and the immediate surroundings are adaptively used for programmatic day use or overnight opportunities while preserving important values of the historic structure and its setting.

Summary of Visitor Experience

Muir Woods National Monument would provide a variety of ways for people (including first-time visitors to the national monument or to a national park system site) to enjoy and explore the natural setting of the redwood forest and the Redwood Creek watershed. A walk through the woods to enjoy the scenery, sounds and smells of the redwood forest would be a key experience. In addition, the national monument supports a variety of recreational, interpretive and stewardship opportunities that are appropriate to the woods and the surrounding state and federal park lands. A visitor’s arrival and transition to the area would be full of orientation and educational information and free of stress. Many visitors would arrive by shuttle from a remote hub or hike/bike into the monument. Initial visitor contact and orientation would be provided at an off-site hub (Manzanita?) and at the monument. Some parking would be retained on-site at the monument and would be managed by reservations. Seasonal attractions and events would be promoted.

Summary of Resource Conditions

Natural and cultural resources would be protected, but some manipulation may occur to support a diverse range of visitor opportunities. Historic structures may be rehabilitated for the purposes of interpretation and education. Existing infrastructure that supports visitor services would be modified to protect/restore integrity of natural resources. All existing operational functions located at Conlon Avenue would be relocated to provide an attractive entrance path/road to Hillside Camp and a restored natural setting.

CP - Alternative - MUWO

